

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 181131Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6658
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 AMMAN 0261

EXDIS

JIDDA FOR USDEPCINCEUR SPEACT EXCLUSIVE

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS USDEPCINCEUR SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, US
SUBJECT: GENERAL HUYSER VISIT -- CALL ON KING HUSSEIN

SUMMARY: KING WELCOMED GENERAL HUYSER AND GAVE HIS VIEWS ON FUTURE JORDANIAN MILITARY DEVELOPMENT. HE INDICATED CONTINUING CONCERN ABOUT EVENTS IN SAUDI ARABIA AND THE GULF AND LINKED SUCH IN PART TO HIS INTEREST IN IMPROVING JORDAN'S MILITARY AIR TRANSPORT CAPABILITY. KING DISCUSSED SITUATION IN LEBANON POINTING UP HIS VIEW THAT NUMBER OF BASIC REFORMS SHOULD BE MADE. KING ASKED GENERAL HUYSER FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING MODERN AIR COMBAT TACTICAL TRAINING FOR ROYAL JORDANIAN AIR FORCE. GENERAL HUYSER REASSURED KING OF OUR SPECIAL INTEREST IN JORDAN AND OF HIS OWN PERSONAL SUPPORT AND EFFORTS TO IMPROVE OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND RECTIFY PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE ARISEN. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING BUSY DAY OF OFFICIAL ACTIVITIES JANUARY 17, GENERAL HUYSER AND I MET WITH KING HUSSEIN AND CINC GENERAL BEN SHAKER FOR 45 MINUTES. EARLIER GENERAL HUYSER HAD MET FOR A FEW MINUTES WITH CROWN PRINCE HASSAN AND EXCHANGED GREETINGS.

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2. KING OPENED CONVERSATION BY EXTENDING WARM PERSONAL WELCOME TO GENERAL HUYSER AND REPEATING HOW PLEASED HE WAS GENERAL COULD COME TO JORDAN. GENERAL BEN SHAKER EXPLAINED TO KING ACTIVITIES OF THE DAY AND HIS PLEASURE THAT GENERAL HUYSER HAD COME OUT TO JORDAN SO EARLY IN HIS TOUR. BEN SHAKER ALSO MENTIONED FOCUS ON SOME OF THE MILITARY AID PROBLEMS OF PRICE AND AVAILABILITY, ETC.

3. KING TALKED ABOUT HIS NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE, PARTICULARLY IN MILITARY TERMS. HE SAID THE ARMED FORCES IN ITS DEVELOPMENT OCCUPIES MAJOR PLACE IN HIS PROGRAM FOR THE COUNTRY. IN MANY AREAS HE HAS NEARLY COMPLETED WHAT HAS TO BE DONE TO EFFECT AN OVERALL IMPROVEMENT IN JORDAN'S DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES. HE MENTIONED NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE AND STRESSED PARTICULARLY THE QUESTION OF AIR LIFT. HE SAID HE WANTS THE CAPACITY TO MOVE RAPIDLY A BATTALION WITHIN COUNTRY AND ALSO TO PROVIDE A CAPABILITY FOR RAPID MOVEMENT TO THE GULF AND ELSEWHERE IN THE PENINSULA. HE THEN TURNED TO US AND ASKED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN SAUDI ARABIA, SAYING HE HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED INFORMATION (DETAILS NOT FURTHER SPECIFIED) THAT THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SOME ATTEMPT OF A LEFTIST GROUP AGAINST THE PRESENT SAUDI REGIME. HE SAID IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION THAT THE ATTEMPT HAD TAKEN PLACE SOMETIME AFTER KING FAISAL'S ASSASSINATION.

4. IN RESPONSE, GENERAL HUYSER AND I INDICATED WE HAD NO INFORMATION THAT WE COULD RECALL ON THE SUBJECT AND I ADDED THAT WE HAD SEEN SIGNS OF INCREASING COOPERATION AND COORDINATION IN THE PRESENT SAUDI GOVERNMENT. KING CONFIRMED THAT SUCH WAS ALSO HIS IMPRESSION FOLLOWING VISIT OF KING KHALID TO JORDAN IN LATE DECEMBER 1975.

5. CONVERSATION THEN TURNED TO LEBANON AND KING WAS ASKED FOR HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION. HE REPLIED THAT THINGS SEEMED TO HAVE GOTTEN WORSE THIS WEEK. HE WAS PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY WHAT HE CONSIDERED TO BE THE INCREASINGLY INEFFECTUAL POSITION OF THE ARMY. HE

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SAID LEBANON SHOULD HAVE LEARNED FROM JORDAN'S EXPERIENCE WITH THE PALESTINIANS, BUT UNFORTUNATELY THEY HAD NOT. STILL DRAWING ON THAT EXPERIENCE, KING MADE IT CLEAR HE THOUGHT THAT JORDAN'S SALVATION HAD BEEN IN COHESIVENESS AND FIGHTING SPIRIT OF THE ARMY IN FACING THE THREAT TO THE REGIME IN 1970. UNFORTUNATELY, NONE OF THAT APPEARED TO BE PRESENT IN LEBANESE ARMY. FURTHERMORE; THE POLITICIANS EVEN SEEM TO TAKE THE POSITION THAT THE ARMY'S ATTEMPT

TO DEFEND ITSELF (REFERRING TO JANUARY 16 USE OF LEBANESE
AIR FORCE) IS TANTAMOUNT TO MUTINY.

6. LOOKING FURTHER AFIELD, KING SAID THAT HE THOUGHT
FUNDAMENTAL REFORMS WERE REQUIRED IN LEBANON. THE
GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE REORGANIZED TO BE MORE
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE POPULATION EVEN IF THAT MEANT SOME DECLINE
IN CHRISTIAN PREDOMINANCE. FURTHER HE COULD NOT SEE HOW
EVERY JOB OF SUBSTANCE IN THE GOVERNMENT COULD BE
ALLOCATED BY RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION. JOBS SHOULD BE
APPORTIONED ON MERIT. THE CHRISTIANS WOULD PROBABLY
STILL CONTINUE TO BENEFIT BECAUSE OF THEIR BETTER

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EXDIS

JIDDA FOR USDEPCINCEUR SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS USDEPCINCEUR SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

EDUCATION AND BETTER DEMONSTRATED CAPACITY TO SUCCEED
IN GOVERNMENT POSITIONS THROUGH LONGER EXPERIENCE IN
SUCH SITUATIONS. HE SAID, AS HE HAS TOLD ME IN THE
PAST, THAT HE HAD CAUTIONED SYRIA TO STAY OUT.
HE CONTINUED TO HOPE THAT SYRIA WOULD DO SO AND HE WAS
SURE THE SYRIANS KNEW THAT IF THEY DID NOT STAY OUT
THE ISRAELIS COULD NOT BE KEPT OUT.

7. CONVERSATION THEN TURNED TO JORDANIAN MILITARY AND
GENERAL HUYSER'S VISIT. KING EXPLAINED HIS INTEREST

IN IMPROVING AIR COMBAT TACTICS OF HIS PILOTS. HE SAID THAT HIS PILOTS WERE NOW DEVELOPING COMPETENCE IN REGULAR FORMATION FLYING AND SO FORTH IN THE NEW F-5E'S. THE BRITISH HAD RECOMMENDED MORE AIR COMBAT TACTICAL TRAINING. I RECALLED FOR KING THAT A US TEAM HAD ALSO RECOMMENDED SUCH A STEP. HE SAID US WAS OBVIOUSLY AHEAD IN THIS FIELD AND HE HOPED TO HAVE SOME OF OUR BEST PEOPLE COME OVER TO WORK WITH THE JORDANIAN AIR FORCE. (MISSION HAS SCHEDULED SUCH ADVANCED AIR COMBAT TACTICAL TRAINING WITH RJAF FOR AUTUMN 1976 AND AT NEXT CONVENIENT OPPORTUNITY I WILL SO INFORM THE KING.)

8. GENERAL BEN SHAKER AND GENERAL HUYSER BOTH HAD AN SECRET

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OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE KING WITH INFORMATION ON NEW CONCEPTS OF TEAM WLRK DEVELOPED BY THE US GROUND FORCES AND TACTICAL AIR. IN ADDITION, THERE WAS A DISCUSSION OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO AIR DEFENSE BEING DEVELOPED BY US MILITARY WHERE ALL AIR DEFENSE FORCES WERE CENTRALLY DIRECTED AGAINST TARGETS WITHOUT RELIANCE ON A "ROLES OF MISSIONS" CONCEPT. THERE WAS ALSO A DISCUSSION OF MODERN ANTI-TANK WEAPONSE SUCH AS TOW AND ITS CAPACITY TO EQUALIZE THE BATTLEFIELD SITUATION FOR A DEFENDER WHERE AGGRESSOR FORCE HAD A SIGNIFICANTLY LARGER NUMBERS OF TANKS. KING MENTIONED, AS HAD BEN SHAKER EARLIER DURING VISIT, THAT SYRIANS HAD CONFIRMED A LOSS OF 2,000 TANKS ON THE BATTLEFIELD IN THE OCTOBER 1973 WAR, MOST OF THEM IN THE FIRST SEVEN DAYS.

9. GENERAL HUYSER TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REAFFIRM TO KING AT THE END OF THE MEETING THAT JORDAN OCCUPIES A SPECIAL PLACE IN OUR PROGRAMS AND THAT US MILITARY ATTITUDES TOWARD JORDAN ARE PARTICULARLY FAVORABLE. THIS IN LARGE PART IS BASED ON JORDAN'S DEMONSTRATED CAPACITY TO USE WELL US MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHICH IT RECEIVES. OTHER PURCHASERS OR RECIPIENTS SEEM TO DO LESS WELL IN THIS RESPECT. KING REAFFIRMED HIS OWN FEELING THAT JORDAN SHOULD NOT SEEK EQUIPMENT FOR WHICH IT DID NOT HAVE MANPOWER READY TO BE TRAINED ON SUCH EQUIPMENT AND WHICH IT WAS NOT READY TO INTEGRATE INTO ITS OWN FORCES IMMEDIATELY.

10. KING AGAIN REPEATED HIS PLEASURE AT GENERAL HUYSER'S VISIT AND URGED HIM TO RETURN AGAIN SOON. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS INTEREST TO GENERAL HUYSER IN WHATEVER THE GENERAL MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO TO HELP IN WORKING OUT SOME OF OUR CURRENT MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROBLEMS.

11. COMMENT: FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE AMBASSADOR

AND THE MISSION THIS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN A MORE SUCCESSFUL VISIT. GENERAL HUYSER NOT ONLY WAS COMPLETELY SYMPATHETIC TO AND INTERESTED IN WHAT JORDANIANS HAD TO SAY, BUT WAS PREPARED IN FORM TERMS TO EXPLAIN ALSO THE PROBLEMS WHICH THE UNITED STATES FACES IN OPERATING ITS MANY PROGRAMS. BOTH KING AND GENERAL BEN SHAKER WERE LEFT
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WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THEIR PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES WOULD RECEIVE CAREFUL AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION. THEY ALSO WERE MADE AWARE THAT JORDAN HAS SOMETIMES OBTAINED WEAPONS EVEN EARLIER THAN THE EUROPEAN COMMAND AND IS THEREFORE CONTINUING TO RECEIVE "SPECIAL TREATMENT" FROM THE US. END COMMENT.

12. MESSAGE HAS NOT BEEN REVIEWED BY GENERAL HUYSER AND THEREFORE IS SUBJECT TO HIS COMMENT AND CORRECTION. USDEPCINCUEP PLEASE ASK DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO DISTRIBUTE TO MILITARY ADDRESSEES AS DESIRED.
PICKERING

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